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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Australian Reproductive Health Alliance

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Australian Reproductive Health Alliance aims to promote public support for enhanced reproductive and sexual health in Australia and internationally and to further the advancement of women and girls. Formed following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, it strives to have the principles agreed on at the Conference implemented in domestic and regional policy. As secretariat for the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, it engages parliamentarians in discussions on sexual and reproductive health and rights in Australia and overseas, to improve policy outcomes.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Over the past four years, the Alliance actively participated in the meetings and conferences of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities. Some of the key events attended by its representatives include: (a) the substantive session of the Council in July 2005; (b) the 2006 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, held at Bangkok in November 2006; (c) the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

During the period 2005-2008, representatives of the Alliance attended meetings on sexual and reproductive health, development and the Millennium Development Goals in different parts of the world, at which they presented numerous papers and speeches.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The United Nations Population Fund provided the Alliance with funds for advocacy on domestic and regional sexual and reproductive health issues and for secretariat support for the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development. In 2008, it extended its funding to support the Alliance's work with parliamentary groups in the Pacific region. The Alliance worked closely with the Fund's Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste country offices and its Pacific region office on this project. The Alliance also launched the Fund's annual State of World Population Report each year, generating awareness of the Fund's mandate and the state of population and reproductive and sexual health issues around the world.

The Alliance facilitated a non-governmental organization forum on achieving the Millennium Development Goals and on lessons learned from non-governmental organizations working in tsunami-struck areas in 2006.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Alliance's aims and mandate are closely aligned to those of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 5, target 2 (Achieve universal access to reproductive health). To support the achievement of the Goals, it observed World Population Day, World AIDS Day, International Women's Day and other commemorative occasions related to sexual and reproductive health, each year. These events were commemorated with press releases and public events and seminars. The Alliance's work in the period 2005-2008 resulted in major policy outcomes in Australia in the area of maternal health.

2. International Bridges to Justice

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The primary aim of International Bridges to Justice is to secure the protection of the basic legal rights of ordinary citizens in developing countries, as outlined by the fundamental principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Specifically, it works to guarantee all citizens the right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment and the right to a fair trial. This is achieved by providing direct technical support and training to emerging legal aid organizations; building international communities of conscience to support emerging legal aid organizations; and advocating and supporting the prioritization of just and effective criminal justice systems on the agenda of organizations involved in international human rights and legal development.

Since acquiring special consultative status in 2005, International Bridges to Justice has undergone a dramatic expansion in the geographic scope of its work. Although its operating model remains the same, the programme structure, which proved successful in China, Cambodia and Viet Nam, was expanded to Rwanda, Burundi and Zimbabwe in 2006 and India in 2007. As a result, the number of in-country personnel employed by International Bridges to Justice and the number of in-country lawyers and law enforcement officials trained by the organization drastically increased. International Bridges to Justice was able to promote criminal justice reform in more jurisdictions, advise more citizens of their rights and provide more detainees with access to counsel. It is currently exploring opportunities for opening country programmes in Guatemala, Azerbaijan and Pakistan and has bolstered its geographical expansion with technological innovation, in an effort to reach as many domestic criminal defence lawyers as possible. In 2009, it initiated an e-learning initiative, wherein an interactive legal curriculum specific to domestic legal jurisdictions is developed, vetted by legal experts and published on the Internet. Legal "hypotheticals", namely fictional situations describing a complicated legal case, have already been posted for Rwanda and Burundi, and a curriculum for Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Pakistan, Kenya, Brazil and Swaziland is currently under development.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Because of the specialized nature of its work, International Bridges to Justice did not directly participate in the work of the Council and its subsidiary entities during the reporting period. It was, however, actively involved with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. In 2008, the Fund financed 17 training sessions for criminal defence lawyers in Burundi and the following year, it provided funding for direct case support for 51 people in Zimbabwe. These projects allowed International Bridges to Justice to make great inroads into the national implementation of such international human rights instruments as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture. International Bridges to Justice

also participated actively in the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and attended various sessions of the Human Rights Council.

As both democracy and the rule of law depend upon an independent, functioning justice system, the organization's work supports the more far-reaching social development goals of the United Nations, such as the Millennium Development Goals. However, as a non-governmental organization narrowly focused on the provision of access to counsel and criminal justice reform, International Bridges to Justice works to provide a facilitating framework for the achievement of the Goals, rather than directly contributing to their realization.

During the reporting period, the organization focused its activities on building the capacity of legal aid defence lawyers and implementing criminal justice reform in various national transitional justice systems. Over the past four years, it worked with governmental and civil society partners, in particular universities and national bar associations, in Africa and Asia, to implement criminal defence practical skills trainings, design multimedia legal rights campaigns, facilitate pan-justice system round-table discussions, develop educational materials, and open national criminal defence resource centres, providing both educational resources and direct case support. All these efforts aim to create a vibrant, organic national criminal defence community that will strive for justice reform. In this way, International Bridges to Justice hopes to facilitate the creation of an internationally linked network of national criminal defence communities committed to the prevention of cruel and unusual punishment, through the provision of early access to counsel for all. During the reporting period, the organization partnered with lawyers' associations, legal aid societies and prisoners' rights organizations in such countries as Brazil, China, India, Kenya, Pakistan and Swaziland.

Because the organization employs a very small staff, many of whom are located in-country, travel budgets do not allow for representatives to be sent to international meetings and conferences. Most travel funds are allocated to sending trainers to the field and hosting biannual summits of senior in-country staff. If information regarding relevant meetings and conferences was provided far enough in advance, it could be accounted for in funding applications; International Bridges to Justice would be interested in taking a more active role in the Economic and Social Council civil society community, in particular in relation to the activities of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

3. International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The need for an international organization of Catholic doctors was expressed by Pope John Paul II when he addressed the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations at the fifteenth international congress in Rome in October 1982. In discussing the urgent problem of providing for the safeguarding, defence and promotion of human life through the filter of different cultures, John Paul II said that individual action was not sufficient and that coordination on a worldwide level would allow a more effective defence of faith, culture, and Christian commitment.

The aims of the Federation are listed in its official statutes and are as follows: (a) to coordinate the efforts of Catholic medical associations in the study and spread of Christian principles throughout the world; (b) to encourage the development of Catholic medical associations in all countries, in order to assist the Catholic physician in his moral and spiritual development and technical advancement; (c) to take part in the general development of the medical profession and to promote health and social work, in accordance with the magisterium of the Catholic Church; (d) to devote itself to the study of medical and ethical problems and their practical and theoretical solution; (e) to establish models of cooperation in health and pastoral care with developing countries.

The Federation organizes a world congress every four years in different parts of the world. It helped to establish a biomedical ethics centre in Mumbai, India, to study ethical problems resulting from the rapid advances in medical technology and carried out health-care projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with the active involvement of member associations.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Federation presented a written statement to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-first session in 2007.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Federation participated in all international meetings, especially those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on topics related to its aims. It also held a forum in Barcelona in 2004, at which the participants discussed cultural diversity, sustainable development and conditions for peace. The Federation has worked among very diverse cultures for decades and, as Catholics, its physicians respect their patients as individual human beings, placing

their benefit above political and economic issues and treating them without religious, ethnic, socio-economic or sexual prejudice. The members of the Federation give some of their time to poor people for free and strive to promote happiness by relieving suffering.

C. Promotion of United Nations events

2005: (a) November, Vatican City, twentieth international conference on the human genome; (b) Yaoundé, World Day of the Sick.

2006: (a) November, Vatican City, twenty-first international conference of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care on the pastoral aspects of the treatment of infectious diseases; (b) October, Rome, MaterCare International's fourth workshop for Catholic obstetricians and gynaecologists; (c) September, Rome, conference on stem cells, scientific aspects and bioethical problems; (d) Barcelona, Spain, twenty-second international congress of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations.

2007: (a) November, Vatican City, twenty-second international conference on the pastoral care of sick elderly people; (b) October, Warsaw, international conference on obstetrics and gynaecology; (c) March, Rome, International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations Executive Committee meeting; (d) February, Seoul, fifteenth World Day of the Sick.

2008: (a) November, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, fourteenth congress of the Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Associations on human dignity in modern medicine; (b) November, Rome, twenty-third international conference of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care on pastoral care on the treatment of sick children; (c) November, Rome, international congress on organ donation; (d) November, Rome, MaterCare International's seventh international conference for Catholic and other Christian/pro-life obstetricians and gynaecologists; (e) October, Baltimore, United States of America, seventy-seventh annual educational conference of the Catholic Medical Association of the United States of America; (f) September, Gdansk, Poland, eleventh congress of the Fédération Européenne des Associations de Médecins Catholiques; (g) April, Rome, International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations Executive Committee meeting; (h) February, Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Canada, sixteenth World Day of the Sick.

III. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations has been working with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) since 1997, engaging civil society and various non-governmental organizations. The Programme and Vatican officials have different opinions but manage to collaborate on a large number of issues. The Vatican is an ally in many respects, and the nuncios working with various United Nations agencies have helped tremendously to bring down the prices of medicines, so they can reach more people in need. Churches have been in the forefront of the HIV pandemic ever since the first man or woman with AIDS walked into a Christian health-care facility; they continue to care for millions of sick and dying people and to give counselling to people who are HIV positive.

4. International Social Science Council

Special, 1985

I. Introduction

The International Social Science Council was established in 1952 by UNESCO to foster international comparative, interdisciplinary social science and to represent the social sciences vis-à-vis international actors, in particular through active participation in the implementation of the United Nations agendas. It has formal associate relations with UNESCO. As the primary international body representing the social, behavioural and economic sciences at a global level, the Council has become an essential partner for UNESCO and a major channel through which UNESCO gains access to the expertise of social scientists.

The period covered by the present report (2005-2008) focused on the implementation of a reform process aimed at renewing the Council's role and profile of priority activities. A number of international consultative workshops were held, including on (a) strengthening social sciences in emerging and developing countries, 2006, Paris; (b) brainstorming on a global social science forum and the new edition of the World Social Science Report, 2006, Paris; (c) social sciences cooperation and the role of institutions, 2006, Alexandria, Egypt; (d) emerging paradigms and issues in the social sciences and humanities, November, 2006, Alexandria, Egypt. These events included the active participation of UNESCO and were arranged in collaboration with national social sciences councils, science academies, development agencies, international disciplinary associations and regional social sciences organizations.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Council attended the (a) forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development and the thirteenth, fourteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It served as chair of the United Nations University-Comparative Regional Integration Studies Advisory Committee from 2005 to 2008 and participated in working groups with UN-Habitat and UNESCO. It also organized two side events at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Council recently signed a new framework agreement with UNESCO for the period 2008-2013. During the reporting period it participated in: (a) the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the UNESCO General Conference (October 2005 and October 2007); (b) the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST)

Scientific Advisory Committee; (c) the International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus (February 2006); (d) the eighth session of the MOST Intergovernmental Council (July 2007); (e) preparatory work for the new World Social Science Report, which is expected to be published at the beginning of 2010; (f) consultations on the preparation of the UNESCO draft programme and budget for 2010-2011; (g) the second session of the General Assembly of States parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Council co-sponsored international scientific research programmes on the international human dimensions of global environmental change, poverty, ethnic conflict and approaches to peace, gender, globalization and democratization. These programmes included workshops, conferences and initiatives on social dimensions and social regulation of globalization, an area neglected in terms of both research and policy; recent advances in research on ethnic conflict resolution; international and exploitative migration, sex trafficking, insecurity of women migrants, and women and leadership; and the strengthening of research, in developing countries, on environmental change.

5. Oxfam Great Britain

Special, 1973

I. Introduction

During the period 2005-2008, Oxfam Great Britain's work with the United Nations focused on providing assistance to people affected by the Asian tsunami, cooperating and coordinating with the United Nations agencies and Governments of the affected countries. In total, Oxfam Great Britain received about £58 million from United Nations agencies, comprising £22 million in cash and £36 million in food-in-kind. The organization strengthened its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, and contributed in the context of the 2005 World Summit. It also advocated for a Security Council resolution on the responsibility to protect.

The principal objectives of Oxfam are to relieve poverty and suffering in all parts of the world and to educate the public on the nature, causes and effects of poverty. Within these overall objectives, it focuses on five areas closely linked to the Millennium Development Goals namely sustainable livelihoods quality education and health-care protection and assistance during disasters and conflict, capacity-building for policy change and diversity. Oxfam Great Britain raises money principally from individuals, appeals and a network of shops in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and from public grants, in particular from the Government of Great Britain, the European Union and the United Nations. Funding totals fluctuate from year to year, depending primarily on the requirements for humanitarian assistance. Total available funds averaged £213 million per year during the period, with increases primarily as a result of the organization's response to the Asian tsunami. Oxfam GB has sister organizations in 13 countries which work together as Oxfam International. The present report gives some examples of cooperation with the United Nations, divided into three broad areas, namely participation in policy development and advocacy, contribution to the Goals and examples of practical work on humanitarian and development projects. In many cases, these elements are closely intertwined.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Oxfam Great Britain worked with United Nations agencies, the Office of the Secretary-General and many other parts of the United Nations system. It chaired the Global Call to Action against Poverty and, in the context of the 2005 World Summit, advocated and shared information on reforms to the United Nations system, the responsibility to protect, and the Central Emergency Response Fund. It organized and participated in Arria-formula meetings of the Security Council on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, northern Uganda, Somalia and the protection of civilians in armed conflict and gave a formal presentation to the Economic and Social Council on climate change and its impact on poverty. With the Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, it organized photographic exhibits in the Secretariat building on Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The organization shared information with and advocated to the General Assembly and the Security Council on climate change and on assistance to and protection of civilians in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, the Sudan, Chad and Sri Lanka. Lastly, it participated extensively in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response on the Standing Committee Principals, the Standing Committee Working Group, and sub-working groups and task forces in Geneva and New York.

B. Cooperation with United Nations Bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Oxfam GB worked with United Nations agencies in the field, particularly the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Over the period 2005-2008, WFP provided about £42 million (including £36 million in food-in-kind and £6 million in cash), UNICEF approximately £4.5 million and UNHCR £3 million for Oxfam Great Britain programmes. Oxfam Great Britain has memorandums of understanding with UNICEF and UNHCR to act as partners in humanitarian response, and has been a very active participant in the water and sanitation cluster, leading and managing a number of projects on the cluster's behalf. The following are a selection of Oxfam Great Britain's programmes with the United Nations:

(a) In Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, it continued to support drought-affected people, in particular in the Wajir region of Kenya, to ensure their food security and to develop livelihood alternatives;

(b) In the Darfur region of the Sudan, it received common humanitarian funds via the United Nations Development Programme to reduce the risk of an outbreak of water-related diseases among displaced persons through the provision of a sufficient quantity of clean water and sanitation;

(c) In Zimbabwe, both food aid and a public health response were funded by WFP and UNICEF to ensure that people forced to flee by the food crises had adequate and appropriate water, sanitation and food;

(d) Worked with UNHCR and UNICEF in eastern Chad to provide refugees and displaced people with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities;

(e) It channelled its community-based protection surveys to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in order to further advance the protection of civilians in the Sudan, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Almost all of Oxfam Great Britain's programmes contribute to the Millennium Development Goals, directly affecting millions of people. Examples of its achievements in 2005-2008 include:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Oxfam Great Britain projects in food security totalled approximately £60 million. It undertook food crisis advocacy at the United Nations and with donors, engaging with world food summits and the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. Three million people benefited from the organization's food and agriculture projects.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education. Oxfam Great Britain helped approximately 1 million children to go to school.

Goal 3: Promote gender equity and empower women. The organization worked with over 100 women's organizations to promote gender equity and made significant efforts to ensure that gender was mainstreamed.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Oxfam Great Britain worked on 80 HIV/AIDS and socio-economic mitigation projects, with an approximate budget of £12 million.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. The organization provided water and sanitation to over 10 million people and loaned a senior advisor to UNICEF to lead the water and sanitation cluster.

6. Project Kesher

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

Project Kesher is the largest Jewish women's organization in Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, with a grass-roots network of 152 women's groups. Since acquiring its special consultative status, the organization has expanded its network to include 90 interfaith, inter-ethnic women's coalitions, many of which it organized. During the reporting period, it expanded its activities to Kazakhstan, Georgia and Israel. As part of its coalition-building, Project Kesher now works with more than 2,000 organizations and offices of the local, regional and national governments in the communities in which it works. Project Kesher continues to conduct widespread programmes on domestic violence and trafficking in women, and, in recent years, it dramatically expanded its work in the area of women's health, tolerance and economic self-sufficiency. While Project Kesher continues to conduct numerous grass-roots programmes, its leaders have become more involved in drafting policy and influencing the allocation of resources. The organization's funding continues to come from individuals, foundations and, increasingly, the Jewish Federation community.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Representatives attended the fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which they conducted several side events. In addition, the Executive Director of Project Kesher was a keynote speaker at a United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) event in the United States in 2007.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Project Kesher applied for financial assistance from UNIFEM but, to date, its grant proposals have not been successful.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Project Kesher conducted widespread advocacy around HIV/AIDS (Goal 6). It engaged in advocacy on health issues, educating women about ways to care for themselves and their families from prenatal care through old age; trained women to understand how their governments make policy decisions and resource allocations

that impact their health and how to advocate, within their political framework, to have their needs met; conducted ongoing programmes to address violence against women in more than 120 communities; and worked with more than 90 women's coalitions to ensure that efforts to achieve gender equality (Goal 3) were well coordinated. Project Kesher is currently in the process of forming a national interfaith women's council that will communicate with the Duma on the needs of women and proposed solutions. One of its most successful interfaith initiatives focused on the role of women in creating more tolerant societies. In 2008, Project Kesher conducted an anti-hate poster contest inspired by the "Not in Our Town" campaign in the United States. These posters were replicated for 100 cities, with the support of the United States embassy in Ukraine, and used to initiate dialogue among schoolchildren and adults.

Project Kesher conducted annual anti-trafficking programmes in more than 100 communities. Its curriculum, developed with "The Angel Coalition", was incorporated into the health programmes of high schools throughout the Volga region of the Russian Federation. Project Kesher conducted widespread outreach in schools and the workplace and worked with the Tahirih Justice Center on the adoption of the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005. It currently provides information to women throughout the region about the risks of marrying someone in this manner and their rights if they find themselves in danger.

Project Kesher set up 15 centres to assist women emerging from poverty. More than 17,000 women have graduated from the centres and, for a cost of less than $50 per woman, more than 80 per cent have improved their financial status.

While Project Kesher continued to advance the gender equality agenda in its region, its limited financial and staff resources hindered its participation in past conferences. As the organization grows and its activists transition from largely grass-roots activities to more policy design and implementation, it is expected to increase its presence at the Economic and Social Council.